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Deletions in CIA Report Bared

See Attempt to Lessen Study Value

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(Chicago Tribune Press Service)

Washington, Aug. 31 — The state department, in releasing a secret central intelligence agency study for publication Aug. 23, made a significant deletion in a covering memorandum, it was learned today. The apparent purpose of the omission was to downgrade the importance of the document as a government paper representing official opinion.

Only a few changes were made in the body of the report. With one or two exceptions, they were not of major import.

Acts to Avoid Scoop

These alterations were noted in a comparison of the original CIA survey of "Trends in the World Situation," dated Feb. 19, 1964, and the second, updated to June 8, which was released to a selected group of reporters on Friday, Aug. 21.

The state department said it was taking this unusual action, removing the "secret" label from a paper prepared by the CIA, the nation's espionage branch, because it had learned that its contents were to be published the following Sunday by THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE.

Administration officials emphasized that the secret paper did not reflect official foreign policy. It was described as "a

thought-provoking" composition by one individual, Willard Matthias, and a "think piece" typical of many distributed thru government agencies.

Key Phrase Deleted

This statement did not accord with a covering memorandum attached to the original document, signed by Sherman Kent, chairman of the CIA's board of national estimates. Kent noted that the paper had received general board approval and has been twice revised and supplemented after board discussion.

This latter phrase, disclosing that the study was more than the opinion of one official and had received board approval after careful scrutiny and debate on two occasions, resulting in revision and additions, was deleted from the Kent memorandum when the entire document was released to the press.

In updating the released paper by six months, the government made few changes in its

a public hearing of his house small business subcommittee which is investigating the tax-exempt status of certain foundations. It embarrassed internal revenue officials attending as witnesses.

Apparently, the CIA's involvement with the Kaplan fund was a secret shared by only a few officials in Washington.

Only IRS Aid in Know

Mitchell Rogovin, assistant to the commissioner of internal revenue, said that until Aug. 10, the date of the last Patman subcommittee hearing on the subject, he was the only IRS employee who knew of the CIA-Kaplan relationship.

Even the New York district office of the IRS, which is conducting the Kaplan investigation, was not aware of the CIA connection, Rogovin said.

Patman explained that he had not planned to make public a matter touching on "foreign affairs" but indicated he was rked by his difficulty in getting all the information he wanted.

He said he had asked his CIA informant for the specific months the agency had given money to the foundation, and which CIA individuals had selected the fund.

Seek Closed Hearing

The agency did not provide the answers, Patman said. He then decided that breaking a confidence and making the issue public was the only way he could get meaningful information, he said.

Rogovin and the acting IRS commissioner, Bertrand M. Harding, agreed to discuss confidential aspects of the case privately with Patman.

Later, Rogovin and Harding met privately with Patman and CIA representatives. Afterwards, Patman said he was convinced that "no matter of interest to the subcommittee relating to the CIA existed."

Patman charged last Aug. 10 that Kaplan, a New York financier, had used the foundation to further his business empire. He identified Kaplan as former president of the Welch Grape Juice company and of Southwestern Sugar and Molasses company.

Kaplan, he said, "is well known in the so-called 'take-over' business. He has waged a number of battles in this field. In some of these contests, he has made use of charitable funds set up and dominated by him."